



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Implementation of Medical Case-Review Program to Reduce Civilian Employee
Injury Compensation Costs

Reference: (a) DoD Manual 1400.25-M, Subchapter 810

Navy and Marine Corps civilian disability claims have been higher than any Service in the Department of Defense. In 2006, the Navy's chargeback cost was approximately \$250 million. Reference (a) outlines the guidance for Navy Medicine's participation in managing these programs toward reducing Navy's costs. A Commander, Naval Installations Command-sponsored pilot program utilizing physician review of Workers' Compensation cases has resulted in successful reductions in costs. This memorandum clarifies the requirement and identifies the responsible parties for a formal Occupational and Environmental Medicine (OEM) medico-legal claim review capability for Navy Medicine.

The initial requirement is to identify and formally task a cadre of OEM physicians with past and/or current experience in reviewing case files and writing effective medico-legal letters. Each Region will identify such OEM physicians, identify the geographic area for which they are responsible, and provide contact information to the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC), Portsmouth, VA. The goal is for these physicians to work with each Medical Treatment Facility's Injury Compensation Program Administrator (ICPA) to reduce the chargeback cost in the BSO-18 facilities where they are assigned.

The Commanding Officer, NMCPHC is responsible for developing and implementing a training, oversight and support program for these designated physicians. Program oversight shall include initial training and subsequent formal review of medico-legal review documents toward formal recognition of independent review capability for each of the OEM review physicians. With input from each region, NMCPHC will set realistic cost-reduction goals for each facility. NMCPHC will monitor and report on the effectiveness of chargeback cost reduction efforts at each of the BSO-18 facilities to BUMED (M3) and the Regions on a semiannual basis. NMCPHC will develop and maintain on-line web-based resources for information on this program.

Point of contact at BUMED is CDR David McMillan, (202) 762-3477 or email: david.mcmillan@med.navy.mil. The point of contact at NMCPHC is CDR Mark Hammett, (757) 953-0784 or email: mark.hammett@med.navy.mil.

T. R. CULLISON
Vice Chief